

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed concurrently with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination. A Petition and Fee for Extension of Time is also filed concurrently herewith.

Claims 1-22 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 8, 15 and 16 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

As noted in the Amendment filed herein on February 17, 2004, a teleconference was conducted between the Examiner and Applicant's undersigned representative on February 17, 2004. Applicant notes that the claims have been amended according to the Examiner's helpful suggestions made during this teleconference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are currently in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-22, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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